

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2005. New claims 9-12 have been added. Thus, claims 1-12 are now pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hieber in view of Nishizawa. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires that "the temperature sensing element, the temperature measuring section and the signal generating section are attached to the rotary table section, and a distal end of the temperature sensing element projects outwardly from a surface of the rotary table so as to be brought into close relation to or in contact with a bottom surface of the wafer."

For example and without limitation, see page 9, lines 1-4, and Fig. 2 of the instant application. Fig. 2 of the instant application, for example, shows distal end 301 of a thermocouple projecting outwardly from a surface of the rotary table 109.

The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined feature of claim 1. In particular, both Hieber and Nishizawa fail to disclose or suggest "a distal end of the temperature sensing element projects outwardly from a surface of the rotary table so as to be brought into close relation to or in contact with a bottom surface of the wafer" as required by claim 1. Both Hieber and Nishizawa are entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 1 in this respect. Thus, even the alleged combination of Hieber and Nishizawa (which would be incorrect in any event) would still fail to meet the invention of claim 1.

Claims 9 and 11 require a cooling section for cooling at least one of the temperature measuring section and the signal generating section. The cited references fail to disclose or suggest at least this feature of claims 9 and 11.

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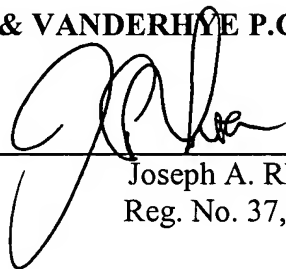
Claims 10 and 12 require that the cooling section includes a circulating system of cooling water. Again, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claims 10 and 12.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100